

Long Beach- In an effort to recognize the importance of our local community colleges, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez gave the keynote address at Long Beach City College's Annual College Day kickoff event today. Alongside Board of Trustees President, Dr. Tom Clark, Congresswoman Sánchez welcomed 30 new faculty, staff and students back to school.

"Community colleges are invaluable to our communities," said Congresswoman Sanchez. "They are engines of local economic growth--for every dollar we invest in them, we get an \$18 million return in our investment," added Sánchez.

Congresswoman Sánchez has long been an advocate for community colleges and vocational education. Most recently, Sánchez cosponsored the College Affordability and Accountability Act which would make college more affordable by providing all students with additional grants to attend institutions of higher learning.

"I am proud to support the efforts of Long Beach City College and community colleges throughout California as they are truly a gateway to opportunity and success for our young people," concluded Sánchez.

The Long Beach Community College District of which Long Beach City College is a part, is one of the large community college districts in the state. With two campuses it serves more than 30,000 students each year. The primary purposes of the education program are to prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate granting institutions, entry into work or career development and to support business and industry development. Long Beach City College serves the communities of Long Beach, Signal Hill, Lakewood, and Santa Catalina Island.